

## **Streetscapes and Gateways Subcommittee Meeting**

### **Tuesday, August 25, 2015, 5:00 P.M.**

A meeting of the Streetscapes and Gateways Subcommittee was held on Tuesday, August 25 at the Ridgeview Library.

**Members Present:** Jennifer Beane, Paige Brigham, Rob Dickerson, Ryan Edwards, Charlie Hayes, Anthony Laxton, Gayle Schwarz, Nick Walden, and Bee Watts

**Members Absent:** Norm Cook, Jeff Hale, Mike Holland, David Roberts, II, and Burk Wyatt

**Others Present:** Freese and Nichols staff members, City staff members, and various members of the community

Subcommittee Chair Rob Dickerson opened the meeting at 5:03 P.M.

Mr. Charles Archer, of Freese and Nichols, gave an update on all of the bond projects. He began by sharing that Riverwalk's conceptual design had been developed, as well as a cost estimate of \$12.5 million. He discussed FNI's meetings with Duke Energy resulting in information about getting a FERC license, which requires multiple agencies to sign off on the final design for Riverwalk. This process is estimated to take up to a year. He also discussed meeting with DENR and gave details regarding some of their regulations. The shoreline along the river consists of two zones. Zone one (30 ft.) is considered a buffer zone and clearing is not allowed, although there is an exception for a 10 ft. wide trail. Zone 2 (20 ft.) can be cleared but can have no impervious objects.

He went on to address Citwalk and explained that FNI is working off of Land Design's cost estimate of \$27.5 million to narrow down a cost estimate of their own. He explained that they are also continuing to look at other sources of funding and added that the City recently received a letter of support from Norfolk Southern for the TIGER grant.

Mr. Mick Berry addressed the subcommittee and reminded them that their opinion is valuable. He explained that they may feel like they are not experts on the streetscapes subjects, but he added that they are the pedestrians, drivers, and cyclists on the streets of Hickory everyday and that makes them an expert. He charged them with taking mental notes as they are out in the city, noting what would truly help to improve Hickory. He also asked the group how they felt about the \$12.5 million cost estimate for Riverwalk. There was a general consensus that the cost estimate was fair for such a large project.

Mr. Archer encouraged everyone to write to their legislatures in support of the TIGER grant if they had not done so already.

Mr. Brian Frazier, Planning Director, explained that he had a series of maps detailing 7 sections with site photos and GIS aerial shots. The large maps were rolled out and displayed on a table where the subcommittee gathered round. The group went over each section, detailing the

problems and offering suggestions and ideas to enhance and improve the areas. The areas they covered were US 70 at 19<sup>th</sup> St. SW to NC 127, NC 127 to Lenoir Rhyne Blvd, and Lenoir Rhyne Blvd. to 21<sup>st</sup> St. Dr. SE. They then covered Lenoir Rhyne Blvd., focusing on Tate Blvd. SE to IH 40. They moved to Springs Rd and focused on 16<sup>th</sup> St. NE to McDonald Pkwy. Next was Hwy 127 from 30<sup>th</sup> Ave to 8<sup>th</sup> Ave NE, as well as Old Lenoir Rd. from 9<sup>th</sup> Ave NW to 12<sup>th</sup> Ave NW.

The group spent the majority of the meeting going over these maps and offering input and ideas for how to enhance the areas. They also discussed issues like long-term maintenance and cost efficiency. FNI will take the subcommittee's feedback and create conceptual designs and cost estimate for the project.

Ms. Jessica Martin-Lane asked the subcommittee to brainstorm idea for supplemental funding. She offered categories like individuals, associations, foundations, businesses, grants, events, and project features to help spur creativity. She passed out sticky notes and asked everyone jot down their ideas. After 15 minutes each member took turns discussing his or her ideas for funding. Ms. Martin-Lane compiled their ideas and will work with them later.

Ms. Surratt discussed possible dates for upcoming meetings. The next full Bond Commission meeting will likely be scheduled for October. She also noted some opportunities for Bond Commission members to share updates with the community at the Farmers' Market, Oktoberfest, and the symphony.

The meeting adjourned at 7:02 P.M.

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Rob Dickerson, Chair  
Streetscapes and Gateways Subcommittee

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Sarah Prencipe, Deputy City Clerk  
City of Hickory